mnt and the Government has introduced a Group Insurance Scheme for powerloom workers in association with the Life Insurance Corporation of India Ltd. during 1992-93. The workers has ensured that a sum of Rs. 10,000 based on an annual premium of Rs. 120/- which they share between the Central Government, and the workers. A Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund was also set up to provide relief to workers of closed mills. Since the inception of the Scheme on 15th Sept. 1986, 33754 workers belonging to 23 mills have been paid relief totalling Rs. 64.49 crores till 25th November, 1993.

(d) and (e) Many of the micro-dimensional problems relate to the State Government with! whom the Centre is constantlly in touch to find a solution to these problems.

implementation of handlooms (reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985

610. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Governments have not been taking interest in the implementation of Handlooms) Reservation of Articles for Producton) Act, 1985;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many State Governments have expressed difflculies to implementating the Act;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what action Government have taken /propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No, Sil Consequent upon the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated February 5, 1993 upholding the validity of the Act, necessary directions have been issued to the State Governments. The governments are lin the process of gearing up their enforcement machinery for effective implementation of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Certain States have sought for Central Assistance for setting up of enforcement machinery.

(d) Government of India is regularly monitoring the progress and is in touch with the State authorities to ensure effective implementation of the said Act. Central assistance is also being given for setting up of enforcement machineries in the State Governments as and when proposals are received in accordance with the guidelines.

Setting up of a Giant Free Trade Zone by European and American Textile Industries

611. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH;
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the move gy European and Ame rican textile industries to set up a giant free zone for garments and fab rics; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that in case this lis done it is likely to hit severely the textile exports from India; and

(c) *it* so, what advance planning is proposed to be undertaken toward off such dangers in order to protect textile exports of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Government are aware of press reports suggesing that a free

trade zone for garments and fabrics may be set up jointly by the European and American textile industries. However, no further details on this issue are available with the Government.

(c) Necessary steps to protect the interests of India's Textile exports would be considered at the appropriate time.

Environment Norms to be followed while Exporting Textiles Items to Germany

612. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that a major part of the country's foreign exchange earnings from the European Community are from exports of apparel and textiles, particularly to Germany;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian Textile exporters have now to conform to stiff environment forms se by German agencies; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose o take to ensure that textile exporters follow these norms and also continue to export textiles and apparel to the German market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No new environment norms have come into force in Germany with regard to export of Textiles from India.

Share of cotton in Global Textile Market

613. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Joint Export Group Comprising of major cotton producing nations has agreed to enhance the share of cotton in global textile market and to vastly improve market accesses;

(b) if so, what are the countries which are represented in the Export Group; and

(c) to what extent the formation of Export Group has helped all the cotton producing nations including India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) he International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) which is an association of 44 Governments) of Cotton producing and consuming countries held its 52nd Plenary Meeting in October, 1993 in New Delhi. One of the decisions wag to develop a project proposal for Common Fund Financing for an expor-recommend a practicial way of implementing programmes which would enhance the share of cotton in global textile market.

Cotton Textile Exporters

614. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total export pot-enital for cotton textiles;

(b) what are the main constraints which inhibit the growth of cotton exports.;

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to enhance cotton text ile exports;

(d) what are the details of struct ural infirmities that are hindering the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) For 1993-94 a target of US dollar 1797.88 million has been